

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 ACDA-10

EB-07 /112 W

----- 053747

R 141100Z MAY 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1983

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBBSSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SY

SUBJECT: IRAQI-SYRIAN CONFLICT

REF: BAGHDAD 506

1. ALTHOUGH IRAQI MEDIA HAS NOT YET REVERTED TO FULL SCALE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYRIA, PRESS HAS CRITICIZED SYRIA'S CLOSING OF IRAQI AIRWAYS OFFICE AND OF SYRIAN AIR SPACE TO IRAQI PLANES. EDITORIAL IN OFFICIAL AL-JUMHURRIYA ACCUSED SYRIA OF VIOLATING BASIC PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN VIEW OF BILATERAL CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP IN ICAO. EDITORIAL ALSO ACCUSED SYRIA OF DENIGRATING ROLE OF IRAQI ARMY IN OCTOBER WAR, SUPPORTING KURDISH REBELLION, AND WITHHOLDING EUPHRATES WATERS. IT  
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ASCRIBES THESE ACTIONS TO "VINDICTIVE POLITICAL

MOTIVES".

2. DG OF IRAQI AIRWAYS ANNOUNCED MAY 13 THAT IRAQI AIRWAYS WAS RE-ROUTING ITS FLIGHTS TO BEIRUT OVER TURKEY AND THAT FLIGHTS TO EUROPE WOULD BYPASS DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT AND FLY VIA ANKARA AND ISTANBUL. IRAQ HAS RETALIATED BY CLOSING SYRIAN AIRLINES OFFICE AND PRESUMABLY ITS AIRSPACE TO SYRIAN PLANES.

3. NO INDICATION YET THAT SYRIA HAS CLOSED LAND TRANSPORT. IRAQ ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT IT WAS SENDING CONVOY OF 100 TRUCKS TO LATAKIA TO BEGIN REMOVING BACKLOG OF IRAQI GOODS THERE. NO CONFIRMATION THAT CONVOY ACTUALLY DEPARTED.

4. COMMENT: RESTRAINED IRAQI POSTURE IS PROBABLY RELATED TO HOPES THAT PRESIDENT SADAT, WHO ARRIVES BAGHDAD MAY 14, MAY BE ABLE TO REVERSE TREND TOWARD COMPLETE DETERIORATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.  
LOWRIE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, DISPUTES, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, WATER RIGHTS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, AIRLINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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